

DISPATCH OF THE MAILS TO AND FROM MELBOURNE.—A despatch appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, and consisting of the Hon. J. B. Watt, Captain Eldred, Mr. D. Nichol, and Mr. S. Dickinson had an interview yesterday with the Postmaster-General, respecting the dispatch of mails to and from the mail steamer at Melbourne. Mr. Watt explained the object of the despatch had in view to the Minister (the Hon. F. and O. Company. That company ran a boat between Sydney and Melbourne.

mission of mails, and other necessities to us for the transport of mail, and they were doing it, he understood, without subsidy; consequently he thought the Sydney people were much indebted to them. But it was thought that the Postmaster-General, by co-operating with the Postmaster-General of Victoria, might lighten the delay that took place in the transhipment and forwarding of our mails. The deputation also desired to ask the Postmaster-General to make arrangements with the telegraph authorities, in order that it might be made known in Sydney as early as possible when the branch steamer left Melbourne. She sometimes left a day or two days before we knew anything about it. He had heard that the P. and O. Co.

contemplated putting on a faster steamer between Melbourne and Sydney. If they did it would be a great convenience to us. Captain Eldred said the depredation did not attempt to point out any way in which the evil complained of might be remedied; they merely desired to urge upon the Postmaster-General the necessity for making arrangements for expediting the transmission of the Queen's mails to and from Melbourne. They had no desire to set in a hostile spirit towards the P. and O. Company, in whom the mercantile community of Sydney were well satisfied. But they felt it a great hardship that such delays in transmitting the mails took place. After some remarks from Mr. Nichol and Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Burne said he would

to Sydney was brought very forcibly under his notice shortly after his accession to office. When the first mail arrived in Melbourne he made arrangements as the department was aware, to detain the Manager, which was about leaving for San Francisco, to enable the mercantile people of Sydney to receive their correspondence via Suez in time to send reply to the Manager. The Millars, however, made such a long voyage that the Manager had to leave after all without a supplementary mail. He resolved at the time to take steps as such, or he could to bring about, if possible, such a change in the arrangements as would, for the future, avert a similar case.

of delays in the transmission of mail from Melbourne, and he was happy to say that the steps he proposed to take had the approval of his colleagues in the Ministry. The result of Cabinet deliberation on the question was that he was about to leave for Melbourne that (yesterday) afternoon, by steamer; intending to return overland. He was fully impressed with the importance of making the Pacific Mail Service and the New Mail Service alternate; and he believed, from what had transpired, that the Australian Government was anxious to reciprocate and afford every accommodation they could. Whether the mails would be further displaced from Melbourne by sea or overland, the future would

THE INTERCOLONIAL CRICKET MATCH.—Arrangements have now been completed for the Intercolonial Cricket Match, which will

to-morrow at 12 o'clock sharp, and, as there appears to be every probability of the present fine weather continuing, the Albert ground will be in first-class order. Owing to the recent heavy rain the teams have not been able to obtain what may be considered satisfactory practice; but since the favourable change they have been a lot at work, and are likely to be in good form. At a meeting of the New South Wales Cricket Association, held last evening, the following supplementary report was brought up by the Selection Committee:—

3. 1878. The selection committee:—

Further to report as follows: Changes of form and other circumstances which occurred after the making of their report, dated 26th ultimo, induced your committee to place the thirteen on an equal footing without distinguishing on eleven from twelve and thirteen men. The illness of Massie, and the good play exhibited by Tooker, necessitated the substitution of the latter for the former. Penniman was at practice on the 2nd instant, and found that the state of his hand rendered it necessary for him to retire. Twelve men only are now left to select from, and your committee are of opinion that the following should be the representative of the various teams, Burns, Faithful, Gilbert, J. Greenes, R. S. Greenes, and J. H. Greenes.

thor, Thompson, and Weaver, and the latter at present stands as twelfth man; but the committee deem it but right to say that circumstances may arise under which it would be necessary to make him one of the eleven; and in such case they will not hesitate to make the requisite change. It is scarcely necessary to add that the committee are unanimous in their opinion.—Edward Barton, secretary." The New South Wales team are requested to meet on the Albert Ground, at 6 o'clock, this afternoon, to choose a captain. It was reported that a telegram had been received from Mr. Coates, informing the Selection Committee that he would

to discuss the morning. Mr. George Little was present, a member of the Executive Committee, and it was stated that arrangements had been made for the disposal of tickets for the game in town at the shop of Mr. Cole, bookseller, George-street, and that the programme will be specially available for the admission of shareholders. Steps have also been taken by the Albert Ground Company to prevent the ground being overrun by the spectators during the luncheon hour, or in the intervals between play. The scoring-cards, published by the authority of the Association, will be issued by Mr. Arthur Cambit, and will be sold by runners at the Albert Ground.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACADEMY OF ART.—The monthly meeting of the Council of this Society, held on Tuesday afternoon at the Free Public Library, the President, Sir Alfred Stephen, in the chair. As the usual routine business had been completed, the honorary secretary reported that the president, vice-president, Mr. James Fairfax, and himself, as trustees appointed for the administration of the £500 voted last year by the Legislature towards the formation of a Picture Gallery, had waited upon the Honorable the Minister of Justice and Public Instruction with a view to seeking the necessary assistance towards establishing a School of Design, and

obtaining premises suitable for the disposal of the profits relating for the trustees in England, and of the mode of giving to the society; and that the suggestions offered by the trustees had been favorably received, and promised the support of the Home Government. The necessity of obtaining suitable rooms for the fourth Session of Works of Colonial Art, to take place at the end of the present month, was discussed, and steps taken to secure, if possible, the necessary accommodation. The vice-president reported that Mr. Joseph F. Boyd, of Bondi, had liberally contributed an oil painting as a prize in the Academy's "Art Union," to take place on or about the 30th April next. The meeting then adjourned until further notice.

ROBBERY AT THE MUSEUM.—Another robbery of gold specimens from the Sydney Museum was effected some time during Tuesday night, or early on Wednesday morning. From the particulars of the affair that have come to hand it appears that the thief or thieves managed to find a window that was not secured, through which they entered the building, and by means of which they subsequently made their escape, taking with them some specimens of gold-bearing quartz, valued at about \$5 or \$10.

Yesterday morning, a deputation consisting of Mr. John Davie, M.P., Alderman Kippax, Mr. J. Roney, J.P., Mr. J. W. Cox, Mr. J. Stumma, and Mr. W. S. Simons had an interview with the Hon. John Robertson regarding the opening of a suitable thoroughfare from the Upper South Head Road to Park Road. A narrow lane already exists, and the deputation asked the Colonial Secretary to remove the eastern end of the enclosure of the Victoria Barracks, in order to make the road a suitable width. It appearing that the improvement asked was much needed, and of great public utility, Mr. Robertson promised to place a sum of money on the Estimates to remove the

ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE A SEAMAN TO DESERT.—At the Water Police Court, yesterday, William Storey, the secretary to the Seaman's Union, was charged, on remand, with having, on the 23rd of February last, attempted to persuade a seaman, named John Fleming, to absent himself from his duty on board of the steamer Lord Ashley. The case excited a great deal of interest among seamen, a large number of whom were present during the hearing of the case. The prosecution being carried upon the evidence of Mr. Manning, the counsel for the defence, and those of the chief officer, both of whom testified, on the 23rd and 23rd ultimo, the defendant

went on board the Lord Ashley and endeavoured to persuade Fleming and others of the crew to leave, because they had subscribed articles containing conditions opposed to the rules of the Seamen's Union. It was shown by witnesses for the defence that the defendant, while on board the vessel, was endeavouring to induce some of the men to become members of the Union, and to obtain signatures to a proposed petition to the Legislative Assembly; but the main facts of the case were not disputed, though the witnesses stated that they did not hear the defendant make use of the expressions depicted in the charge. The Bench found the defendant guilty of the offence, and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment. The Bench also ordered the defendant officer and Mr. Manning. The Bench also ordered the defendant officer and Mr. Manning. The Bench also ordered the defendant officer and Mr. Manning.

A ROW BETWEEN TWO FIRE BRIGADES—A Wellington (N.Z.) journal states that in the Police Court there was a case between two fire brigades. Captain Whitford, of Wellington, charged Captain ... his branchman with having deliberately set the hose upon him. The evidence was in favour of the plaintiff, though the occurrence arose out of a ... of the other

the Washington Building company, accidentally, in the first instance, the law was turned upon Whiteford in retaliation. Fined \$100, with costs, 1 lb. and 7c 64.

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This property would be valuable to an agricultural mill
grier, as there is a large area of Government land at the
rear available for stock.

